

Reading activity
The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy

Extract 1

There were so many rules that you couldn't do anything without being told off and there seemed to be tests and exams every week. Mildred Hubble was in her first year at the school. She was one of those people who always seem to be in trouble. She didn't exactly mean to break rules and annoy the teachers, but things just seemed to happen whenever she was around. You could rely on Mildred to leave her hat on back-to-front or her bootlaces trailing along the floor. She couldn't walk from one end of a corridor to the other without someone yelling at her, and nearly every night she was writing lines or being kept in (not that there was anywhere to go if you were allowed out). Anyway, she had lots of friends, even if they did keep their distance in the potion laboratory, and her best friend Maud stayed loyally by her through everything, however hair-raising. They made a funny pair, for Mildred was tall and thin with long plaits which she often chewed absent-mindedly (another thing she was told off about), while Maud was short and tubby, had round glasses and wore her hair in bunches.

Fact file about Mildred

What year is Mildred in?	
What is Mildred like at school?	
What does Mildred look like?	
Any other information about Mildred?	

Extract 2

"I think Miss Cackle gave you that cat on purpose," Ethel sneered. "You're both as bad as each other."

"Oh, be quiet," said Mildred, trying to keep her temper. "Anyway, it's not a bad cat. It'll learn in time."

"Like you did?" Ethel went on. "Wasn't it last week that you crashed into the dustbins?"

"Look, Ethel," Mildred said, "you'd better be quiet, because if you don't I shall..."

"Well?"

"I shall turn you into a frog and I don't want to do that."

Ethel gave a shriek of laughter.

"That's really funny!" she crowed. "You don't even know the beginners' spells, let alone ones like that."

Mildred blushed and looked very miserable.

"Go on then!" cried Ethel. "Go on then, if you're so clever. Turn me into a frog. I am waiting."

It just so happened that Mildred did have an idea of that spell (she had been reading about it in the library). By now, everyone had crowded round, waiting to see what would happen, and Ethel was still jeering. It was unbearable.

Mildred muttered the spell under her breath - and Ethel vanished. In her place stood a small pink and grey pig.

Cries and shouts rent the air.

"Oh no!"

"That's torn it!"

"You've done it now, Mildred!"

Mildred was horrified. "Oh, Ethel," she said, "I'm sorry, but you did ask for it."

The pig looked furious.

"You beast, Mildred Hubble!" it grunted, "Change me back!"

Impression of characters

Mildred

Impression	Evidence
She cares what people think about her.	Mildred blushed.

Ethel

Impression	Evidence
Is very confident	"Turn me into a frog. I'm waiting."